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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 2, 2004

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**BRONX DRUG DEALER SENTENCED TO LIFE PLUS 10 YEARS
IN U.S. PRISON FOR KILLING RENEGADE MEMBER OF HIS OWN GANG**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that RICARDO DELVI, a/k/a "Delvi Ricardo," a/k/a "Benny," a/k/a "Brain," - the enforcer for the Hughes Boys narcotics organization - was sentenced in Manhattan federal court late yesterday to a term of imprisonment of life plus 10 years for, among other things, murdering a 19-year-old fellow member of the Hughes Boys. The Hughes Boys organization was a drug-dealing gang that once controlled the distribution of crack cocaine, cocaine and heroin in a part of the East Tremont Section of the Bronx. DELVI was convicted on July 7, 2003, of narcotics conspiracy, firearms offenses, murder and other charges, after a two-month trial before United States District Judge SHIRA A. SCHEINDLIN.

The evidence at trial established that between 1995 and October 2001, the Hughes Boys organization controlled the retail distribution of illegal narcotics, including crack cocaine,

cocaine and heroin, within a five block radius of Hughes Avenue and East 178th Street in the East Tremont Section of the Bronx. During that time, the Hughes Boys organization employed dozens of individuals who conducted retail sales on a 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week basis, at numerous locations, including on Hughes Avenue, Crotona Avenue, and Arthur Avenue. Members of the Hughes Boys regularly used firearms to defend their drug trafficking operations. DELVI, who worked closely with the organization's leader, Angel Cordero, a/k/a "Pinky," was the primary enforcer for the Hughes Boys organization, engaging in numerous acts of violence intended to protect and promote the Hughes Boys narcotics distribution operation. Cordero, assisted by DELVI, took over leadership of the Hughes Boys organization after Sanford Malone, the long-time leader of the organization, was gunned down on February 14, 2000.

The evidence at trial also established that on December 15, 2000, members of the Hughes Boys organization, including DELVI and Cordero, gathered to discuss problems that the leadership was having with a breakaway faction of the organization that sought to seize control of drug sales on Hughes Avenue. At that meeting, DELVI and Cordero offered \$5,000 to anyone who would kill members of the rival faction. The offer was accepted by Edgar Marino Sanchez, a/k/a "Marinito," an associate of DELVI who, at the time, was managing a narcotics distribution operation in Schenectady, New York.

On December 19, 2000, DELVI and Sanchez, together with

other members of the conspiracy, located Earl Edwards, a/k/a "Weasy," a 19-year-old member of the rival faction of the Hughes Boys, who at the time was standing on the corner of East 178th Street and Hughes Avenue in the Bronx. DELVI and Sanchez approached Edwards and, after a brief confrontation between DELVI and Edwards, DELVI pointed to Edwards. In response, Sanchez pulled out a .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun and fired seven shots, killing Edwards, according to evidence at the trial. A bystander was also wounded in the shooting. Sanchez was arrested in connection with the shooting on January 9, 2001, and DELVI surrendered the next day. Cordero was arrested in connection with the shooting on April 4, 2001.

Cordero and Sanchez stood trial with DELVI and were also convicted on July 7, 2003, of narcotics conspiracy, firearms offenses, and murder. Sanchez is currently scheduled to be sentenced by Judge SCHEINDLIN on June 15, 2004. Cordero is currently scheduled to be sentenced by Judge SCHEINDLIN on July 8, 2004.

The investigation of the Hughes Boys organization, which dated from 1999, was carried out by agents and officers of the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") and the New York City Police Department ("NYPD"). By the end of 2001, the Hughes Boys organization was effectively dismantled after numerous members of

the leadership of the organization were arrested and charged with various offenses, including narcotics and firearms offenses. To date, at least 18 members of the organization have been charged and convicted of offenses related to their participation in the organization.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the New York City Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorneys TIMOTHY J. TREANOR and DAVID M. RODY are in charge of the prosecution.

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